

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a first entity, a method comprising:
obtaining a call option from a second entity, wherein the call option includes a first maturity date; and
issuing a forward contract to the second entity, wherein the forward contract includes a second maturity date.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first entity includes at least one of a financial entity and a business entity.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the second entity includes at least one of a financial entity and a business entity.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the second maturity date is after the first maturity date.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the second maturity date is before the first maturity date.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the second maturity date is the same as the first maturity date.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the forward contract includes an obligation to transfer to the second entity at least one of dividends and distributions on a number of shares of stock of the second entity underlying the forward contract.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the second entity pays a premium for the forward contract.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein transferring the at least one of dividends and distributions occurs at maturity of the forward contract.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein transferring the at least one of dividends and distributions occurs before maturity of the forward contract.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein transferring the at least one of dividends and distributions occurs after maturity of the forward contract.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein total shares outstanding of the second entity are reduced by the number of shares of stock of the second entity underlying the forward contract.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein transferring the at least one of dividends and distributions causes at least one of income of the second entity to remain substantially constant and earnings-per-share of the second entity to increase.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the forward contract includes no obligation to transfer to the second entity at least one of dividends and distributions on a number of shares of stock of the second entity underlying the forward contract.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein total shares outstanding of the second entity are reduced by the number of shares of stock of the second entity underlying the forward contract.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein transferring the at least one of dividends and distributions causes at least one of income of the second entity to decrease and earnings-per-share of the second entity to remain substantially constant.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein total shares outstanding of the second entity are reduced by a number of shares of stock of the second entity underlying the forward contract.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the call option includes a provision for assignment of the call option.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the forward contract includes a provision for assignment of the forward contract.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the call option and the forward contract provides a return to the second entity, wherein the return is substantially equivalent to tax-free interest.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the first entity assumes the risk associated with at least one of the forward contract and the call option.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the second entity assumes the risk associated with at least one of the forward contract and the call option.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the first entity exercises the call option at maturity.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein the first entity does not exercise the call option.

25. The method of claim 1 further comprising pricing at least one of the forward contract and the call option.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein the first entity and the second entity enter into the forward contract and the call option simultaneously.

27. The method of claim 1, wherein the first entity and the second entity first enter into one of the forward contract and the call option.

28. A computer-readable medium including instructions for performing a method, said medium comprising:

instructions for obtaining a call option from a second entity, wherein the call option comprises a first maturity date; and

instructions for issuing a forward contract to the second entity, wherein the forward contract comprises a second maturity date.

29. A system comprising:

means for obtaining a call option from a second entity, wherein the call option comprises a first maturity date; and

means for issuing a forward contract to the second entity, wherein the forward contract comprises a second maturity date.

30. In a first financial entity, a method comprising:
structuring a transaction between a first entity and a second entity, wherein the transaction includes at least one of a forward contract and a call option.
31. The method of claim 30, wherein the first entity is at least one of a business entity and a second financial entity.
32. The method of claim 30, wherein the second entity is at least one of a business entity and a second financial entity.
33. The method of claim 30, wherein structuring includes pricing at least one of the forward contract and the call option.
34. The method of claim 30, wherein structuring includes marketing at least one of the forward contract and the call option.
35. The method of claim 30, wherein structuring includes underwriting at least one of the forward contract and the call option.
36. The method of claim 30, wherein structuring includes determining whether one of the first entity and the second entity will issue at least one of the forward contract and the call option.

37. The method of claim 30, wherein structuring includes determining at least one of terms and conditions on at least one of the forward contract and the call option.

38. A system comprising:
a computer associated with a business entity; and
a transaction computer associated with a financial entity, wherein the transaction computer is configured to obtain a call option from the business entity and issue a forward contract to the business entity.

39. The system of claim 38, wherein the computer associated with the business entity is configured to account for the call option and the forward contract.